

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4104

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0669

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINT,SF

SUBJ :VORSTER TO SPEAK ON COLORED POLICY

REF :CAPE TOWN 419, 458, 482, AND 515

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOR THE THIRD TIME IN BRIEF PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, OPPOSITION'S POINTED CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT'S COLORED POLICY HAS BEEN MET WITH STUDIED EVASIVENESS. PM VORSTER SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON ISSUE AT COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) NOVEMBER 8. EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT HE WILL ANNOUNCE STEPS DESIGNED TO INCREASE POWER OF CRC WITHOUT, HOWEVER, VARYING FROM POLICY OF 'PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT.'
END SUMMARY.

1. ONCE AGAIN OPPOSITION HAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT'S COLORED POLICY DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. AS ON PAST TWO OCCASIONS(CAPE TOWN 419,492), OPPOSITION CRIES THAT 'TIME IS RUNNING OUT' HAVE BEEN MET WITH EVASIVE GOVERNMENT MANEUVERINGS AND DOGGES REASSERTION OF WISDOM OF 'PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT' FOR COLOREDS.

2. DEBATE THIS WEEK CONCERNING BUDGET FOR MINISTRY OF COLORED RELATIONS WAS MOST NOTABLE FOR INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER
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LIBERALIZATION OF UNITED PARTY'S (UP)COLORED POLICY. UP LEADER

SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF TOLD HOUSE THAT IF GOVERNMENT AND COLORED COMMUNITY WORKED OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY POLICY, UP WOULD SUPPORT IT EVEN IF IT DID NOT CONFORM TO HIS PARTY'S(MUCH VAUNTED AND LITTLER UNDERSTOOD) FEDERAL POLICY. WHATEVER THE EVENTUAL SOLUTION,GRAAFF URGED GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS LEADING TO FULL RIGHTS FOR COLOREDS, INCLUDING DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT. AS INTERMEDIARY PROPOSALS GRAAFF REPEATED UP'S PREVIOUS STAND THAT PETTY APARTHEID AND COLORED DISCRIMINATION SHOULD BE REMOVED, GROUP AREAS ACT REVISED, 'REMOVALS' TERMINATED UNTIL HOUSING SHORTAGE REMEDIED, AND EQUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES INSTITUTED. GRAAFF'S CALL FOR FULL RIGHTS PLACES UP IN POSITION NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY WHICH HAS CALLED FOR FULL CITIZENSHIP FOR COLOREDS.

3. GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO CRITICISM WAS PREDICTABLE RERUN OF PREVIOUS DEBATES. REPEATEDLY,NATIONAL MP'S ARGUED THAT DISCUSSION OF COLORED POLICY MUST AWAIT ISSUANCE OF THERON COMMISSION REPORT (NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1975). GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SAG NOW STRESSES CONTINUING CONSULTATIVE PROCESS BETWEEN WHITES AND COLOREDS ON DECISIONS AFFECTING LATTER COMMUNITY. MINCOLORED RELATIONS ALSO STATES THAT PM VORSTER WILL MAKE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT, THOUGH NOT RPT NOT OF MAJOR POLICY CHANGES, ON COLORED AFFAIRS WHEN HE OPENS LAST SESSION OF 1974 CRC ON NOVEMBER 8. PRESS SPECULATES

THAT PM MIGHT ANNOUNCE GREATER POWERS FOR CRC AND ELABORATE ON HIS PROPOSALS FOR TOP LEVEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN WHITES AND COLOREDS IN FORM OF CABINET COUNCIL OR STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM BASIC GOVERNMENT POLICY.

5. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING APPEARANCE AT CRC SESSION,PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH CRC REPS(CAPE TOWN 458, 515), AND RECENT WHOPPING PAY RAISE FOR CRC MEMBERS CONSISTENT WITH EVOLVING GOVERNMENT POLICY TO IMBUE CRC WITH PRESTIGE IN EFFORT TO CONVINCE COLORED COMMUNITY THAT IT IS MEANINGFUL BODY.

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